GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:383
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2000
PRODUCTION OF COASTAL ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT
V. SAROJA

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Committee to survey and study India`s coastal line for thepurpose of protection of coastal ecology and environment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(d) the steps being taken to protect the ecology of the coastal region?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):

(a) to (d): The Central Government has assigned a study on ` Status of Coastal Regulation Zone` to the Centre for Earth Science Studies (CESS), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. This involves a critical study of all issues pertaining to the impl ementation of the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 and the preferred approach for coastal area regulation andmanagement. To review the progress of this study and to formulate a National Coastal Zone Policy, a Steering Committeehas been constituted.The Steering Committee is required to provide guidance for the preparation of new National Coastal Zone Policy. The terms of reference for the Steering Committee is as follows:

(i) Clear definition of objectives for the new National Coastal Zone Policy.

(ii) Whether different regulations including the jurisdictions, should apply to different coastal stretches and inland water bodies on the basis of geomorphologic, ecological and demographic characteristics.

(iii) Appropriate regulatory and enforcement machinery at various levels.

(iv) List of developmental activities to be permitted/regulated/prohibited.

(v) Type of regulatory mechanisms called for to minimize any adverse impact of developmental activities on the coastal areas environment and to suggest mechanisms for improvement of coastal areas specially beaches.

(vi) To suggest economic instruments for regulating the developmental activities in the coastal areas.

To protect the coast and its environment, the Central Government has issued a Coastal Regulation Zone Notificationin February, 1991. The Notification imposes prohibition on activities in the coastal areas, which have sensitive eco-systems, and regulates activities in other areas of the coast.

To ensure proper monitoring of the implementation of the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991,the Central Government has notified National Coastal Zone Management Authority and State /Union TerritoryCoastal Zone Management Authorities.